

10/09/2025

HOTA Gallery Highly Commended at State Awards

The Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists of the **2025 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) on Tuesday 9 September, at a special awards presentation hosted by Museum of Brisbane. Special guest, **Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education and the Arts**, congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with individually crafted trophies by artists Vanessa Cannon, Laurence Gibson, Gregory Salt, and Lorna Shuan, from the Yalanji Arts Collective, Kuku Yalanji Country, Mossman Gorge, Far North Queensland.

HOTA Gallery was awarded a **Highly Commended** in the category of **Projects: Paid Organisations with 7+ FTE Paid Staff** for its project, ***Writers Revealed: Cultural Leadership through Literary Excellence***.

Writers Revealed, displayed from April 12 to August 3, 2025, has set a new standard for cultural engagement on the Gold Coast. Showcasing rare treasures from the British Library and the National Portrait Gallery, London, the exhibition was a world-first, weaving together literature, visual art and biography, including manuscripts, personal items and portraits of literary giants, like Jane Austen and William Shakespeare.

An exemplar in international collaboration, *Writers Revealed* involved the complex coordination of international loans, logistics, programming, and public engagement, which has resulted in building internal organisational capability and sector leadership.

Accessibility, inclusion, and education were central to the project's design and further demonstrate HOTA's commitment to these priorities. This included the *Writers Revealed Experts Lecture Series*, featuring renowned scholars discussing topics like gender and authorship in the 17th century, and contemporary Indigenous voices in literature.

Additionally, workshops led by award-winning writer Christine Betts encouraged participants aged 16+ to find their own literary voice, while guided tours with Auslan interpretation, hands-on workshops and interactive experiences fostered a deep connection to the art of storytelling.

The exhibition demonstrated HOTA's strategic vision of being a bold cultural precinct, promoting storytelling across generations, and amplifying underrepresented voices.

The 2025 GAMAA judges commended HOTA's innovative, multidisciplinary approach, as well as their planning and resource management to meet the complex international loan requirements under the *Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Act*, to deliver a highly engaging, intellectual

exhibition with broad demographic appeal, from families and literary enthusiasts to lifelong learners.

Through rigorous governance, planning and evaluation methods, this project has provided HOTA with valuable experiences and learnings that will shape its programming into the future and broaden its global brand.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said, "We extended our hearty congratulations to HOTA Gallery for its *Writers Revealed* exhibition. This world-first international collaboration is a testament to the power of art and storytelling and demonstrates the Gallery's leadership and commitment to high-calibre, inclusive programming."

Ms Butler continued, "This year, we undertook a comprehensive review of the award categories and introduced several new ones, which led to an unexpectedly high number of nominations. This response is a testament to the remarkable work being done by museums and galleries of all sizes throughout Queensland. It is a privilege to shine a spotlight on the achievements of so many deserving individuals and organisations."

Minister for the Arts, John-Paul Langbroek, said, "Queensland has more than 400 museums and galleries, all of which play an important role in sharing our stories, activating and connecting communities and attracting visitors to our regions."

"Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in this year's Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards, which celebrate individuals and organisations who support community and visitor engagement with arts and cultural experiences."

"The Crisafulli Government is proud to invest in Museums & Galleries Queensland through the Organisations Fund 2026-29, which supports delivery of our 10-year arts and culture strategy, *Queensland's Time to Shine* and its vision for a thriving creative sector supporting a statewide vibrant arts scene."

Now in its twenty-first year, the GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) to honour the achievements of our State's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

The 2025 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Museum of Brisbane** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

The 2025 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

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